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12 September 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: John N. McMahon  
Acting Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence  
Community

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Director, Office of Policy and Planning

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SUBJECT: Definitions of Intelligence [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] For the past three and one-half months OPP has been working to bring together outstanding differences within the Community on the meaning and interpretation of various intelligence terms. Some highlights:

a. 24 May 1977 - memo to the DCI explaining usage of the terms "departmental" and "scientific and technical" intelligence. [REDACTED] study on national-tactical interface has been stymied for almost four months on this issue alone--now we have to deal with a Congressionally imposed report on the same topic because we never got our own off the ground.)

b. 2 June 1977 - memo from the DCI suggesting circulation of a statement on terminology regarding "tactical," "strategic," "departmental," and "S&T" intelligence, and the classification of intelligence consumers. (The suggestions were not enthusiastically received by NFIB.)

c. 18 July 1977 - circulation of a proposed DCID on definitions of intelligence to NFIB members for comment.

d. 4-18 August 1977 - comments received from NFIB members with virtually unanimous recommendation for pursuit of the effort (while some disagreement exists on the form of promulgation). A typical remark of one of the members:

"...an authoritative and comprehensive glossary of intelligence terms is long overdue. Common appreciation of basic terminology is a fundamental requirement for any cohesive endeavor."

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2. ☐ During your absence I proposed a meeting of NFIB representatives to discuss ways to proceed toward the objective of a Community definitions document with wide acceptance. A number of procedural matters need to be discussed early in the process (e.g., content, form of promulgation, organization of the working groups and points of departure). There are wide varieties of definitional frameworks and definitions in use today, and we cannot expect that consensus on approach will be obtained without thorough groundwork and extended discussion. To name just a few existing pertinent documents:

- a. NSCIDs 1, 5, and 6;
- b. E.O. 11905;
- c. Annex E to the HUMINT Plan, "Glossary of Intelligence Terms";
- d. Proposed legislative charters for intelligence organizations;
- e. JCS Pub 1.

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3. ☐ To my surprise, Dick Kerr and Walt Elder disagreed with the need to proceed with our efforts at this time. Both argued that we should wait for publication of the new Executive Order before going any further on this project. The publication date is apparently indeterminate at this time due to the DCI's planned trip to Europe (and possibly some other political problems related to OMB's troubles). A check with ☐ reveals that there are only one or two unresolved definitional problems outstanding in the E.O. negotiations (related to electronic intelligence), and of course they would be taken into account in the course of the discussions in any event. In my view, much work needs to be done in this area, and little of it is affected by the new E.O. (the provisions of which are largely known quantities anyway). The development of an agreed definitions list will be an extended process. We will always be able to find reasons for not proceeding if we wish to invent them.

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4. ☐ I believe we should press ahead with our efforts in the definitional area. I think it is (a) important, (b) timely, and (c) complex. The complexity of the matter requires steady, professional pursuit of the work, and not a hopscotch, stop-and-go approach. As one NFIB member has written:

"...the importance of the need underscores the necessity that it be a first class product."

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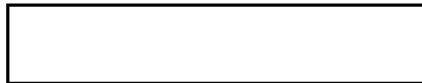
5. ☐ I recommend that you authorize OPP to move ahead with this project with all deliberate speed.



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PROCEED:

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Acting Deputy to the DCI for  
the Intelligence Community

HOLD:

Acting Deputy to the DCI for  
the Intelligence Community

14 Sept 77  
Date

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